

We claim:

1. A process for obtaining oligomers of polytetrahydrofuran or of tetrahydrofuran copolymers from a methanolic crude product which contains polytetrahydrofuran or tetrahydrofuran copolymers and is obtained in the transesterification of the mono- and/or diesters of polytetrahydrofuran or tetrahydrofuran copolymers with methanol, which comprises
  - a) removing the majority of the methanol from the crude product in a first distillation stage,
  - b) separating the resulting bottom product by distillation into a top fraction comprising the oligomers of polytetrahydrofuran or of tetrahydrofuran copolymers, and polytetrahydrofuran or tetrahydrofuran copolymer,
  - c) condensing the oligomers of polytetrahydrofuran or of tetrahydrofuran copolymers out of the top fraction from stage b).
2. A process as claimed in claim 1, wherein the methanol removed in stage a) is recycled into the transesterification.
3. A process as claimed in either of claims 1 and 2, wherein distillation is effected in stage a) at from 20 to 500 mbar gauge and a temperature of from 50 to 250°C.
4. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 3, wherein distillation is effected in stage b) at an absolute pressure of from 1 to 300 mbar and at from 50 to 250°C.
5. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 4, wherein condensation is effected in stage c) at a temperature of from 5 to 40°C.
6. A process as claimed in any of claims 1 to 5, wherein the crude product obtained is freed before stage a) of sodium ions stemming from the transesterification catalyst by treatment with an ion exchanger.

## Obtaining oligomers of polytetrahydrofuran or of tetrahydrofuran copolymers

## Abstract

- 5 A process for obtaining oligomers of polytetrahydrofuran or of tetrahydrofuran copolymers from a methanolic crude product which contains polytetrahydrofuran or tetrahydrofuran copolymers and is obtained in the transesterification of the mono- and/or diesters of polytetrahydrofuran or tetrahydrofuran copolymers with methanol, which comprises
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- a) removing the majority of the methanol from the crude product in a first distillation stage,
  - b) separating the resulting bottom product by distillation into a top fraction comprising the oligomers of polytetrahydrofuran or of tetrahydrofuran copolymers, and
  - 15 polytetrahydrofuran or tetrahydrofuran copolymer,
  - c) condensing the oligomers of polytetrahydrofuran or of tetrahydrofuran copolymers out of the top fraction from stage b).